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The Country Gentleman's second Letter to the Author of The Observations upon the present Plan of Peace.

S I R,



YOU seem, in the Observations which you was so good to send me, to attribute the present pacifick State of Affairs to Fortune, Providence, a Coincidence of favourable Circumstances, good Luck, or any thing, rather than to the Wisdom and Conduct of the Court of Great Britain; to that you attribute nothing.

Every thing shall be fortuitous, or every Country under Heaven shall be *wise*, and consult its own true Interest, but England; we are the only *Dupes* in the Universe. Strange indeed! But what if, upon Examination, it should appear, that the *Wisdom*, the *Moderation*, and *unfavourable Industry* of the Court of Great Britain, brought about these lucky Events, caused this Coincidence of favourable Circumstances, and chained down Fortune herself: For 'tis *Wisdom* and right Conduct make Fortune. The old Romans, tho' they built Temples, instituted Priests, and offered Sacrifices to that *courying Goddess*, yet never neglected the least Circumstance that had a Tendency to produce the Event they wished for: Their *Skill* and their *Valour*, their rigid *Temperance* and warm *Love* of their Country, would have produced the same Events, had there not been a Temple, an Altar, or a Priest in the World dedicated to that Idol of the *Weak* and the *Wicked*. Fortune did nothing any further than a *Belief* in her Power and Protection might have influenced their Hopes, and inspired their Valour. The Truth is, what we call *Fortune*, is nothing; 'tis only a *Name* for Causes we are ignorant of: For there are natural and necessary Causes which produce every Event; and 'tis my Opinion, that the *English* and *Dutch* keeping out of the War so long, was the Cause of the present pacifick Disposition abroad. In this, as I am informed, We and the States went hand in hand. If so, you are mistaken, when you assert, 'That, had our Measures prevailed, and drawn the Dutch into the War, as we have dragged them into several of our Treaties, the present happy Turn of Affairs would have been so far from coming to pass, that, in all Probability, we should now have been in the Heart of a bloody and consuming War, the chief Burden of which might have been laid upon our Shoulders.'

By this Paragraph, Sir, you shew, that you was not let into the Secret; for our Measures were not War. What you say therefore about our endeavouring to draw them into a War is, as far as I am able, without ministerial Direction, to come at the Truth, absolutely false. No, we acted in Concert, and building upon that judicious Maxim of yours (p. 20.) 'That the Princes of Europe are now grown *wise enough* not to suffer any one Power to over-run all the rest, resolved not to engage till inevitable Necessity commanded, and then to engage no farther than as common Partakers in the Danger that might accrue by any overgrown unequal Power.' This was the *wise* and *firm* Resolution of the Maritime Powers. The Dutch did not keep us out of the War, nor We them; but we both kept out of it, waiting, or rather making favourable Events for Peace, tho' resolving to join the Emperor, and enter into a general War, rather than suffer France to grow too powerful for the rest of Europe. These cautious Measures, and this *firm* and *unalterable* Resolution of engaging at a proper Season, kept alive the Hopes of the Imperial Court, and determined it to make no Peace but upon good Terms; and at the same time intimidated the French, made them very cautious how they acted upon the Rhine; and to resolve at last, rather to settle Preliminaries for a Peace on the best Terms they could obtain, than run the Hazard of a general War, after so much Blood and Treasure spent in a particular one to so very little Purpose. The Hopes therefore of the Emperor, and the Fears of France being kept alive by the Wisdom of the Maritime Powers in not engaging too soon, and by their *firm* Resolution to engage when Things were ripe, produced

this happy Turn of Affairs, and was the real and efficient Cause of the Preliminaries, tho' agreed upon without the Form of a Mediation. There is also a Circumstance to confirm this Reasoning, which is, that the present Preliminaries do not essentially vary from the Plan proposed by Us and the Dutch above half a Year before; not essentially, I say: For there is but one Difference worth mentioning, and that is, *Tuscany* goes to the Duke of Lorraine, and *Lorraine* to France; and this may very justly be said to be no essential Variation, because it makes no essential Difference with relation to the Balance of Power, which is the only Thing we have to regard upon the Continent. France is, in reality, in no greater Capacity of annoying the Emperor than it was before; for whenever the Dukes of Lorraine entered into Measures against the Interest of the French Court, they immediately seized the Dutchy; so that it was as effectually theirs to all the Intents and Purposes of War, as if it had been theirs by Right; and this seems to be the Meaning of that Part of his Majesty's Speech (which you are so decently merry with) where he says, That these Preliminary Articles do not essentially vary from the Plan proposed by him and the States.

WHAT I have said, in these two Letters, makes it appear reasonable to believe, that, among other Causes which produced the Preliminaries for a Peace, one was, the Influence of the Crown of Great Britain: This was not, indeed, the sole Cause; but 'twas mingled with other Causes, and had its proportionate Weight and Authority. It signifies nothing, whether the Peace was made with or without our Mediation; tho' perhaps, as you say, better without it: For then, we shall not be involved in the Expence and Danger of effectuating and guarantying the Execution, any further than is necessary to our own Interest. I agree with you, that by this Disposition of Power, and breaking through the most solemn Treaties, all our former Engagements are vacated of course; we are now at Liberty to act just as the Honour and Welfare of Great Britain demand of us; and are under no Obligation to enter into a War but when we are injured in our Trade, or the Balance of Power is in danger of being lost.

We are, I think, now in the happiest Circumstances possible; for which Reason I am astonished, that a Person of your good Principles, after all the Assurances of the highest Regard for the Publick, should suffer private Resentment to prevail over all national Considerations, and drive you upon dishonouring your Country, under the poor Pretence of speaking Truth: Whereas, no Man is under an Obligation to speak Truth, but when 'tis useful. If what you say was true, 'That the Distress of our Circumstances at Home is so great, that we have no Occasion to rejoice at any thing Abroad; that our present miserable Circumstances are so well known, that it would be in vain to endeavour to conceal them; and, that it would be flattering ourselves to suppose that France was ignorant of them, or check'd her victorious Arms upon our Account: Yet, why tell this? Why make Proclamations to all Kingdoms and States abroad, and to all the good People of England at home, that we are undone? Cui Bono? Where's the Use or Benefit of this melancholy Truth? But, when we consider, that what you call Truth, is absolutely false: That we have as much Weight abroad, and are in as good Circumstances at home as the most prosperous Nation under Heaven; what shall we think of the Force of Prejudice, able to bear down the Force of the best Principles in favour of your Country, the warmest Heart in Affection towards it, and the most determin'd Resolution to defend it; and yet, with all these national Principles and Virtues about you, you are able, only because you hate the Ministry, to shut your Eyes so close, as not to see the most evident Truths, but as Falshoods; nor the most evident Falshoods, but as Truths. How much ought we to guard against the Ascendency of our Passions, which, when once triumphant, carry all before them; make a wise Man believe like a Fool; and a Friend of his Country, act like the most determin'd Enemy.

I am, S I R,

Your's, &c.

Yesterday came the following Advice by a Mail from Holland.

Vienna, Jan. 28. O. S.

THE Act of Renunciation, Reservation, and of Adherence to the Pragmatick Sanction, was executed by the Duke of Lorraine, and by the Archduchess on the 21st Instant, with the following Ceremony. In the Hall where it was performed, there was an Altar, on which a Crucifix was placed, with the Book of the Gospels, and a Couple of lighted Wax Tapers. The Emperor and the Duke of Lorraine, who came about 11 in the Forenoon, were soon after followed by the Emperor and the Archduchess, attended by all the Ministers both of the Emperor and the Duke of Lorraine. Their Imperial Majesties being seated under a magnificent Canopy, and the several Ministers having taken their Places, Count de Sinzendorf, the Great Chancellor, with an audible Voice, read the Instrument, and then the Cardinal Collanitz, Archbishop of this City, presented it on the Gospels to the Archduchess, who sign'd it, after having taken the proper Oath: And then the Count de Sinzendorf read the Duke of Lorraine's Act of Approbation and Acceptance, which the Duke also sign'd, after having taken the Oath in the same Manner as the Archduchess.

The Picture set with Diamonds, of which that Prince made a Present to the Archduchess, when she was promised to him in Marriage, is valued at 300,000 Florins; and the Diamond Button and Loop which his Royal Highness had then upon his Hat, at no less than 200,000. Their Imperial Majesties have made a Present to the Archduchess of 12 Diamond Bodkins, valued at 140,000 Florins; and the Empress Dowager Amelia, and the Archduchess Mary Magdalen, Daughter of the Emperor Leopold, have also made her a Present of a Necklace and Ear Rings, to the Value of 120,000. All these together, with the Linnet and other Things, with which the Empress likewise presents the Archduchess, were exposed for three Days successively in the Empress's Apartment, to the publick View and Admiration of a vast Contour of Spectators of all Ranks. 'Tis said that the Duke intends to present the Pope's Nuncio, who is to give his Benediction to the Nuptials, with a Cross of Emeralds adorn'd with Diamonds, and that the Emperor also designs him a handsome Present.

As to the Affairs of Peace, M. du Theil the French Minister, continues his Conferences so successfully with those of the Emperor, that 'tis not doubted but the General Tranquillity of Europe will soon be settled on a sure and solid Foundation. Mean time the Emperor has return'd a favourable Answer to the Declaration lately given to his Ministers by the Spanish Agent, which shew'd that his Catholick Majesty was not against accepting the Preliminaries, under certain Provisions. As according to all Appearance, there will be no Congress; the Prince Wenceslaus of Lichtenstein, who was talk'd of as in Nomination to be the Emperor's First Plenipotentiary, solicits now to go Ambassador to the Court of France; and the Duke d'Aremberg stands fair to be Governor of the Milanese, after its Evacuation.

We hear that the Fortrefs of Gradiska, situate upon the Save in Slavonia, is intirely burnt down to the Ground, as 'tis supposed by the Contrivance of the Rebels, of whom there are several still lurking in those Parts.

Versailles, Feb. 1. O. S. The Court having just received an Express from M. du Theil at Vienna, which says, that the Emperor consents to give the King of Spain all the Securities he desires, both for his own Interests and those of his Son the King of the two Sicilies, an Express is sent to carry this agreeable News to his Catholick Majesty, who, 'tis now hoped, will accede to the Preliminaries without more Delay.

Frankfort, Feb. 5. O. S. Letters from Old Brisack, mention the Execution of the Emperor's Chief Engineer there, who kept a Correspondence with the French Troops in the late War, gave them Notice of all the Parties that were detach'd, their Number, and their Route, and who had agreed for 1400 Louis d'Or to betray that Place to the Enemy. It was at first intended to break him alive upon the Wheel; but in consideration

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tion of his Age, which is said to be 78, the Sentence was chang'd; so that after his Right Hand was cut off, he was beheaded and quarter'd; his Wife, Daughter and Maid being Accomplices with him; the Wife was also beheaded, and his Daughter and Maid were branded with a hot Iron, and then whipped and banish'd for Life out of the Emperor's Dominions.

Warsaw, Jan. 28. O. S. Two of King Stanislaus's chief Adherents, viz. Count Tarlo, the Palatine of Lublin, and the great Treasurer of Lithuania, are arrived here from Koningsberg, to make their Submission to King Augustus. His Majesty, in order to retrieve the Finances of the Kingdom, has sent to Saxony for a Remittance of 1,300,000 Florins, to defray the daily Expences of the Court; and there is a great Talk of reducing the Saxon Regiments that served on the Rhine, and in Poland, which have Orders to sell their Equipages; but there will be 25 Men of every Company of Horse and Dragoons kept on Foot, so that the Reduction will be but 2000 Horse. His Majesty has, with his own Hand, wrote a Letter of Thanks to the Pope, for that which his Nuncio delivered him in his Holiness's own Hand-writing, recognizing his Title to the Crown.

Dantzick, Jan. 30. O. S. The Polish Lords and Gentlemen who are still at Koningsberg, make a Scruple to accept King Stanislaus's Abdication of the Crown, and say, that unless it be performed in a General Dyet, it will be a Violation of the Constitutions of the Kingdom; but 'tis believed that the Abbe l'Anglois, the Minister of France, will be able to remove that Obstacle.

They write from Petersburg, that the Czarina is resolved to have the Statues of all the Czars that ever sat on the Throne of Russia, cast in Brass to their full Proportion, and set up in the Galleries of the Palace at Moscow, called Kremelin. The Statue of Peter I. is to be distinguished from the rest by its Greatness, as a Mark to denote the superior Glory of his Reign.

Hamburg, Feb. 3. O. S. We hear by Letters of the 19th ult. from Petersburg, that the Court has sent an Express to Smolensko, where the Prince of Hesse-Homburg is expected with 20 or 25,000 Men from Poland, with Orders to carry those Forces towards the River Pruth, and then to join Count Munich's Army near Asoph.

Copenhagen, Jan. 30. O. S. The Council lately established by the King, for promoting the Commerce of his Subjects, has had several Meetings to consider of Ways and Means for preventing those who trade to China from being insulted as heretofore they have been by foreign Traders; and they have advised the building of Forts in all the Danish Settlements in the East Indies, for the Security of such of their Ships as shall have Occasion to be there.

Berlin, Feb. 1. O. S. His Prussian Majesty has published an Order for stripping off the Thatch of all Houses throughout his Dominions, and covering them with Tiles; and the same Order enjoins all his Subjects to provide themselves with Necessaries for extinguishing Fires.

L O N D O N .

They write from Italy, that, on the 20th of January, being the Birth-day of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Earl of Essex, who came from Turin to Milan, to finish the Carnival there, was very splendidly entertained at the Castle by the commanding Officer, and that both as he went in, and came out, his Excellency was honoured with a Salvo from the great Guns of that Fortress.

On the 3d Instant James Barnard, Esq; at York, quitted the Mayoralty at York, and was succeeded by Samuel Clark, Esq; the present Lord Mayor, who, on that Occasion, gave a grand Entertainment to the Citizens, and the next Night a Ball, and an elegant Supper to the Gentlemen and Ladies of that City; and the Day after his Lordship treated all his Tenants at and about Askham.

Last Night a Proclamation was published for apprehending and bringing to Justice, certain Persons therein mentioned, and other Rioters, for pulling down and destroying the Turnpikes erected at Ledbury in Herefordshire in September last.

Last Thursday a Man coming to Town from Colnebrooke, was overtaken near Brentford by three Men, who joined Company with him, and calling to drink at Kentington, where they stay'd till about 8 o'Clock, on their paying their Reckoning, they found that he had a Sum of Money; upon which they pretended to conduct him to London; but, when they came to Hyde Park Corner, prevailed on him to go to Chelsea, to which he consented; but when he had got into the Field behind the Infirmary, they knocked him down, and robbed him of 4 Guineas and 2 half Guineas, 2 s. his Coat, Waistcoat, Hat, Wig, and Shoes, and afterwards bound him, and flung him into a Ditch, where

he lay till 7 o'Clock the next Morning, when he was discovered by a Pensioner belonging to Chelsea College, who released him, and carried him to the Hercules-Pillars at Hyde Park Corner, where he lies very ill.

Hounslow-heath, for about 10 Days last past, has been so invested by two Highwayman, well mounted, as makes it dangerous for Travellers to pass over the said Heath. They robbed several Coaches the Beginning of this Week; and on Thursday met Mr. George Tracy of Stains, near the Powder-mills, who having a considerable Sum of Money about him, set Spurs to his Horse, and soon left them at some Distance; notwithstanding which they pursued him with the utmost Boldness and Resolution for near a Mile, when one of them falling from his Horse, they quitted their Pursuit, and rode off a-crois the Heath towards Colnebrooke.

On Thursday they began to pay off the Companies of the following of his Majesty's Ships at Chatham, viz. Cornwall, Devonshire, Newark, Northumberland, Sterling-Castle, and Tilbury.

On Thursday next his Excellency Count Kinski, the Imperial Ambassador at this Court, will give a grand Entertainment at Somerset-house, to several of the Nobility, &c. on account of the Marriage between the Duke of Lorain and the Archduchess.

At the Instance of several Letters, the Subjects of the Oratory To-morrow, will be the Sovereign Felicity discovered, or the Mistakes of the Feast rectify'd; then a Person will deliver a Dissertation on a controversial Point. In the Evening, will be an Oration on Women eminent for Philosophy and Science, with a Remark on Mrs. Drummond's Preaching; and a publick Disputation. Mr. H. Resp. Lockanus Opponent; 'Whether the Soul always thinks according to Philosophy?'

Yesterday Bank Stock was 148 1-half to 3-4ths. India 172. South Sea 94 1-4th without the Divid. Old Annuity 111. New ditto, 109 5-8ths to 3-4ths. Three per Cent. 151 3-8ths to 1-half. Emperor's Loan 110 1-half. Royal Assurance 104. London Assurance 13 3-4ths. York Buildings 2. African 10. India Bonds 51. 18s. to 19s. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 41. 16s. Prem. South Sea Bonds 51. 5s. Prem. New Bank Circulation 61. 2s. 6d. Prem. Salt Tallies 4 to 4 3-4ths Prem. English Copper 21. 3s. Welsh ditto, 21. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 4 1-4th per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 111 1-half.

This Day is Published,

A COLLECTION of several TRACTS of the Right Hon. EDWARD EARL of CLARENDON, Author of the History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in ENGLAND, begun in the Year 1641, viz.

I. A Discourse by way of Vindication of himself from the Charge of High Treason, brought against him by the House of Commons.
II. Reflections upon several Christian Duties, Divine and Moral, by way of Essays. 1. Of Human Nature. 2. Of Life. 3. Of Reflections upon Happiness, which we may enjoy in and from ourselves. 4. Of impudent Delight in Wickedness. 5. Of Drunkenness. 6. Of Envy. 7. Of Pride. 8. Of Anger. 9. Of Patience in Adversity. 10. Of Contempt of Death, and the best Providing for it. 11. Of Friendship. 12. Of Counsel and Conversation. 13. Of Promises. 14. Of Liberty. 15. Of Industry. 16. Of Sickness. 17. Of Repentance. 18. Of Confidence. 19. Of an Active and a Contemplative Life; and when and why the one ought to be preferred to the other. 20. Of War. 21. Of Peace. 22. Of Sacrilege.

III. A Discourse of the Reverence due to Antiquity.
IV. A Discourse against the Multiplying Controversies, by insinuating upon Particulars not necessary to the Point in Debate.

V. A Dialogue concerning the Want of Respect due to Age.

VI. A Dialogue concerning Education, &c.
VII. Contemplations and Reflections upon the Psalms of David. With Devotions applicable to the Troubles of the Times.

N. B. None of these Pieces were ever printed before, and the Original Manuscripts in his Lordship's Hand-writing be may be seen at T. Woodward's.

Printed for T. Woodward, at the Half-Moon over-against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street; and J. Peele at Lock's Head in Amen Corner.

Of whom may be had,

The History of Queen Anne, wherein all the Civil and Military Transactions of that Memorable Reign are faithfully Compiled from the best Authorities, and impartially Related: The whole intermixed with several authentic and remarkable Papers; together with all the Important Debates in Parliament: A complete List of the most Eminent Persons who died in the Course of this Reign; with proper Characters of those who render'd themselves most conspicuous in Church and State. Illustrated with a regular Series of all the Medals that were Struck to commemorate the great Events of this Reign, with a Variety of other useful and ornamental Plates. By Mr. A. Boyer.

An Historical and Critical Account of the Life and Writings of WILLIAM CHILLINGWORTH, Chancellor of the Church of Sarum: Wherein are inserted several original Letters of that learned and eminent Divine, never before printed. By Mr. Des Maizeaux, F. R. S. In Octavo.

L O N D O N : Printed for T. COOPER, at the Globe in Pater-noster-Row.

This Day is Published,
(With the Addition of a THIRD VOLUME)
The Sixth Edition corrected of,

THE INDEPENDENT WHIG: Or, a Defence of Primitive Christianity, and of our Ecclesiastical Establishment, against the Exorbitant Claims and Encroachments of Fanatical and Dissipated Clergymen.
Printed for J. PEELE, and sold by J. OSBORNE at the Golden Ball in Pater-noster-Row.
N. B. The Third Volume may be had separately, to complete the Sets of those who are possessed of the Two former Volumes.

This Day is Published,

[Price Two SHILLINGS]

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N. B. Some of the Apothecaries prepare a Styptic from a Prescription of Helvetius, and use it in the Room of Dr. Eaton's; but whoever tries both, will soon be persuaded that Our's exceeds their's in all Respects, in a most eminent Degree.

Sold, by Licence, at Garraway's Old Shop, Practical Science, at the Royal Exchange; Mr. R. Bradshaw's Warehouse behind the Royal Exchange; Mr. John Potter, Chymist, in Bartholomew Close; Mr. William Evans, Bookseller in Bristol; Mr. Hammond, Jun. Bookseller at York; Mr. Roe, Bookseller in Derby; Mr. Raikes, Printer in Gloucester; Mr. Dyer, Printer in Northampton; Mr. Thomas Greenhill, Mower, at Bath; Mr. Abree, Printer, at Canterbury; Mr. Howard, an Apothecary at Kidderminster; Mrs. Trobridge, a Shop-keeper in Exeter; Mr. Hallifax, an Apothecary at Brighthelm; Mrs. Unett, a Bookseller, at Wolverhampton, and Mr. Bryan, a Printer, at Worcester.